



## Becoming an Adoption Friendly School

PAC-UK Education Service

[www.pac-uk.org/education](http://www.pac-uk.org/education)

### Six full day workshops for school professionals

This **NEW**, year-long course is provided by PAC-UK, the country's largest independent adoption support agency. PAC-UK's Education Service has expertise in understanding and supporting the educational needs of adopted and permanently placed children who have experienced trauma in their early lives.

#### Description

The Department for Education is increasingly recognising the long term impact of trauma and loss for children who live in adoptive or special guardianship families. Adopted and permanently placed children may experience a range of difficulties at school, including problems coping with change and transition, relationship difficulties with adults and other children, and difficulties managing their emotions and behaviours. All of this can have an impact on their learning and emotional wellbeing.

The six workshops will guide you through the steps towards become more adoption friendly by implementing whole school change, offering opportunities to share good practice with a wider school network and receive support in your journey from our Education Advisers.

#### Who should attend

Two members of staff, or a member of staff and an adoptive parent from within the school community to attend all six sessions. Schools are asked to commit to working with the two course delegates to set up an action group within school which will work through the whole-school changes highlighted on the course.

#### Course content

- A road map for effecting whole-school change
- Identifying the needs of adopted children
- Reflecting and including adoptive families
- How to prioritise relationships
- Rethinking behaviour management
- True partnership with parents
- Effective information sharing
- Supporting staff
- Embedding and sustaining change

## Delegates will receive

- Six high quality training days
- A copy of the book 'Becoming an adoption friendly school', with access to the online toolkit
- Between-session access to telephone support from the trainers, to help them to implement the changes in their school
- Access to an online network of delegates, for ongoing peer support and discussion
- A rich set of resources to use within school

## Trainer

PAC-UK's Education Advisers draw from a range of expertise including education, developmental psychology, psychotherapy and neuroscience.

## Frequently asked questions

### Is this course just about adopted children?

In the words of one adoptive parent: 'What's good for our children is good for all children.' The course focuses specifically on adopted children because this vulnerable group is often assumed to be 'ok', now that they have permanent loving families.

Adopted children, like some other groups, for example looked after children, have experienced considerable trauma and loss which has an impact on them in different ways throughout their school journeys.

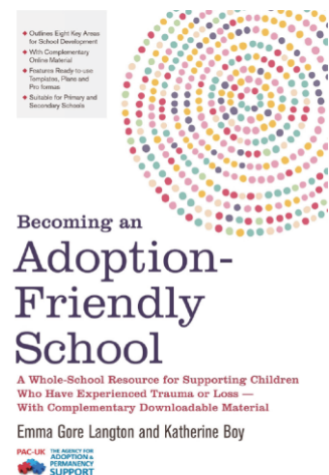
While some issues (e.g. reflecting adoptive families, and effective use of the pupil premium plus) are more specific to adopted pupils, many of the changes you'll be asked to make will benefit all pupils and staff.

### Why should we send two people on the course?

Effecting change in a complex system like a school is hard! In our experience, delegates are much more likely to be able to implement the changes when they have back-up and team work from someone else who shares their knowledge, vision and drive.

### Why are the dates spread across two terms?

The purpose of this course is to lead delegates on a journey of whole-school change. Delegates will leave each day with an action plan to implement with the working group in their school. At the next session, they will feedback on their progress, and we will troubleshoot any difficulties. Change takes time, and we want to be alongside you for each step of the journey.



## What's unique about the course?

The course supports you to take an action-focused approach to addressing whole school systems and practices.

It is not a primer on attachment, trauma and loss. Instead, it builds on participants' knowledge in these areas to develop whole-school approaches that meet the needs of children with difficult early life experiences.

## Will we be accredited at the end of the course?

We provide CPD certificates for individual delegates, and a certificate of participation for the school.

'Adoption-friendly school' status is not protected or accredited. Instead, we give you the tools and resources to demonstrate- on your website, in your policies and procedures, and in the day to day life of the school- your adoption-friendly approach.



We will be working to the Adoption-friendly schools charter (Gore Langton & Boy, 2017).

## How much does it cost?

The price per school to send two delegates for all six days is only £3,995 +VAT. This price includes the support between sessions as well as peer support.

You can now use our [NEW](#) online booking form to make a provisional booking.

The online booking form can be found on the Education Service page on the PAC-UK website at the below address.

For more information about this programme (incl. bookings) contact Lisa O'Callaghan via phone [020 7284 0555](tel:02072840555) email [lisao@pac-uk.org](mailto:lisao@pac-uk.org) or visit [www.pac-uk.org/education](http://www.pac-uk.org/education)

## About PAC-UK

PAC-UK is the country's largest independent Adoption Support Agency. PAC-UK's **specialist Education Service** offers a range of services to enable schools, parents and guardians and education and social care professionals to meet the needs of children who have experienced difficult starts in life.

PAC-UK was **rated Outstanding by Ofsted** in 2017, and was selected **as overall winner in the King's Fund/GSK Impact Awards 2017**, for 'Supporting Excellence in Community Health Care'.

